



Department of Justice

United States Attorney David R. Dugas
Middle District of Louisiana

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CONTACT: DAVID R. DUGAS
(225) 389-0443
FAX: (225) 389-0561

ANOTHER INDICTED, ANOTHER SENTENCED IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, ON DISASTER RELIEF FRAUD CHARGES

BATON ROUGE, LA – United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced today that another Louisiana resident was indicted and another was sentenced on fraud charges related to a hurricane disaster relief program.

SANDRA R. DAVIS, age 38, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was charged in a two-count indictment by a federal grand jury on January 7, 2009, with mail fraud (Count One) and with making a false and fraudulent claim for disaster assistance benefits (Count Two). The charges resulted from an investigation conducted by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. If convicted on Count One, DAVIS faces a maximum sentence of twenty (20) years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both. If convicted on Count Two, DAVIS faces a maximum sentence of five (5) years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both.

MARLON D. RANDOLPH, age 33, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, pled guilty on July 21, 2008, to Count One of an indictment charging him with mail fraud. The United States alleged in the indictment and the defendant admitted that he submitted an application to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance benefits that contained false and fraudulent representations, causing him to receive benefits to which he was not entitled. RANDOLPH was sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Court Judge Ralph E. Tyson to six months of community confinement, five years of probation, and \$2,000 in restitution. The U.S. Postal Inspection Service conducted the investigation of this matter.

Today's indictment brings the total number of individuals who have been charged in the Middle District of Louisiana with violations related to hurricane disaster relief funds to one hundred seventy.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force – chaired by Acting Assistant Attorney General Matthew W. Friedrich of the Criminal Division – includes the FBI, the U.S. Inspectors General community, the U.S. Secret Service, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the Executive Office for United States Attorneys and others.

For further information, contact David R. Dugas, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, or Lyman Thornton, First Assistant U.S. Attorney, at (225) 389-0443. Anyone suspecting criminal activity involving disaster assistance programs can make an anonymous

report by calling the toll-free Hurricane Relief Fraud Hotline, 1-866-720-5721, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until further notice. Information can also be emailed to the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force at HKFTF@leo.gov or sent by surface mail, with as many details as possible, to Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4909.

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